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Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the cedi, consisting of 100 pesewas.

Government

General

Ghana, located on the W coast of Africa, is bounded on the W by the Ivory Coast, on the N by Burkina Faso, and on the E by Togo. The seacoast, about 290 miles long, lies between a position 2.5 miles W of **Newtown** (5°05'N., 3°04'W.) and a point 0.8 mile SW of Lome.

The land is fronted by a low, sandy shore and backed by plains and scrub. In the extreme W and E parts, sand spits enclose large lagoons which are bordered by mangrove forests.

A tropical rain forest belt extends N for 175 miles from a point on the shore near the border with the Ivory Coast. It is broken by several hills and many streams and rivers. This area, known as the Ashanti, produces most of Ghana's cocoa, minerals, and timber.

The country lying to the N of this belt varies from 90 to 390m in elevation and is covered by low bush, parkland savannah, and grassland plains.

The climate ranges from equatorial along the coast to savannah in the N part and is typified by the existence of well-defined dry and wet seasons.



Flag of Ghana

Ghana is governed by a directly-elected President who serves a 4-year term. The President appoints a Council of Ministers, subject to approval by the Parliament. The 200-member Parliament is directly-elected to serve 4-year terms.

Administratively, the country is divided into ten regions

The legal system is based on English common law and customary law.

The capital is Accra.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Independence Day	March 6
Good Friday	Varies
Easter Monday	Varies
May Day	May 1
Republic Day	July 1
Framer's Day	December 7
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26

Islamic holidays, which are subject to the appearance of the moon, include Eid-il-Fitr (End of Ramadan) and Eid-il-Adha (End of Pilgrimage).

Industries

Cocoa is the most important crop. Coffee, improved types of palm oil, coconuts, and tobacco are being planted on a larger scale. Progress has been made in the planting of Clonal rubber in the SW part of the country.

There are large areas of forest land, providing a large export in sawn and log timber.

Oil has been found and produced in commercial quantities.

Natural mineral resources include gold, diamonds, manganese, bauxite, and aluminum. These are almost all exported in their primary state.

Languages

The official language is English. In addition, over 56 native dialects are also spoken.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ZULU. Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at 6th and 10th Lanes, 798/1 Osu, Accra.

The mailing address is P.O. Box 194, Accra.

U. S. Embassy Ghana Home Page

<http://usembassy.state.gov/ghana>